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battles against the materialism so prevalent in our day. He also fully recognizes the social ills of the time, and is bold to charge upon England its dereliction concerning them. These sermons are not sensational, but they are popular in the best meaning of the term. Though they are not to be put in the same class with Robertson's, Bushnell's, and Brooks' discourses, yet they are thoughtful, fresh, interesting, stimulating, and contain many practical, wholesome spiritual lessons. The treatment is never elaborate, always informal, sometimes fragmentary. The scientific exegete would dissent from some of the author's interpretations. The theologian would not always agree with him.

The sermons contain considerable repetition of both material and phraseology. The same quotations of prose and of poetry, and favorite words and phrases, frequently recur. The author speaks again and again of the "Jesus-aspect" of God, of God as the "Parent-Source," the "Parent-Spirit," of "another dimension of space." "Closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet" occurs in nearly every sermon. These were serious blemishes in the delivery of the discourses, especially if substantially the same hearers listened to them. In the printed volume they are inexcusable.

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CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS: A Sociological Study of Foreign Missions. Vol. II. By REV. JAMES. S. DENNIS, D.D. New York, Chicago, and Toronto: The Fleming H. Revell Co., 1899. Pp. xxv + 486. \$2.50.

In a large sense this great work of Dr. Dennis is a commentary upon the Christ's own title which he chose for himself—the Son of Man. In this title Jesus crowned his own doctrine of the worth of man. Christian missions in the past, but more especially in their present trend, follow closely the Master's spirit, teachings, and example. No other literary work, we imagine, has so clearly set forth this fact as the trio of volumes of which this is the second.¹ It is a sociological study of foreign missions, and one very rich in encouragement to all who take seriously the command of Jesus to disciple all the nations.

¹For a review of the first volume see this JOURNAL, Vol. II, pp. 707-10.

This portly volume opens with a frontispiece showing in one group ten of the translators of the Bible into Japanese. Their work was finished and the Book of books issued in Nihonese in 1888. Three are native and consummate masters of the tongue of mikados and of poets whose verses a millennium old still delight scholars. Of the seven aliens—all Americans except one—four “have crossed the flood.” It is a picture to thrill the soul of one who remembers the time when to Japan’s millions Christianity meant sorcery, government edicts banned the faith under penalty of limb and life, prisons were filled with believers about to be sent to those already in exile, and when to have a scrap of Scripture put the owner in jeopardy of life. Yet these were the days also of infanticide, unspeakable disease, cruelty, beggary; the period with no hospitals, orphanages, or blind asylums. Now, with the Bible and churches, have come manifold and elaborate applications of Christianity to all the needs of man. Verily Japan nobly illustrates that “dawn of a sociological era in missions” and “the contributions of Christian missions to social progress” with which this volume is concerned and which themes it so ably treats. In it are scores of reproductions of photographs of many men, women, and children of many lands, in varied garb, of manifold methods of life, but with one hope illuminating their faces. As effective as arguments as they are pleasing to the eye are these illustrations. Dr. Dennis deserves high praise for the originality of his method as well as for his indomitable patience and perseverance in collecting so many rich and varied proofs of the power of the gospel over the whole man.

In the elaboration of his thesis Dr. Dennis draws from a wide range of testimony, and gives copious references to authorities who have been workers or witnesses in the wide field. Christianity is distinctly creative of new types of individual character and of a new public opinion. It establishes and promotes education, stimulates the intellectual life of nations, awakens the philanthropic spirit, introduces new national aspirations and higher conceptions of government, and lays the foundations of a new social order. It thus proves itself a civilizer of the first grade of value. It thus commends itself to every lover of his kind and race, without regard to one’s subjective beliefs or dogmatic prepossessions. It is no longer possible for men conversant with the facts to hold the attention of the thoughtful with the old puerile nonsense about “the cost of a convert.” Even in lands like Japan, where, in the impotence of despair at the impossibility of resisting Christianity, native scholars, as

able as they are crafty, studiously misrepresent the causes of national renaissance, the proofs of the social amelioration through the religion of Jesus are too patent for suppression or concealment. The critically sifted testimony of scrutinizing visitors, of veteran missionaries who have perspective as well as breadth of view, and the confirmatory testimony of natives demonstrate the unique power of Christianity in its missionary form as the renewer of national life and Jesus the Savior of man in this visible world as well as in that unseen. If it be true, as has been well said, that "if Christ's religion cannot save a man for this world, it cannot save him for any other," Dr. Dennis' array of facts makes it certain that wherever the life of the Son of Man is reproduced men are saved for both worlds.

The bulk of this second volume is devoted to showing the results of Christian missions as manifest in individual character, as affecting family life, and as shown in the humane and philanthropic tendencies which are engendered and directed. Not only are many nations and peoples called on as witnesses to furnish proofs, but the literature and authorities are so cited and arrayed that this work thus becomes an invaluable handbook to the student of the grandest force now working for the spiritual unity of the race. Even the bare catalogue of the themes discussed, each of which is also an index of victory already in great part attained, is eloquent: the elevation of woman, the restraining of polygamy and concubinage, the checking of adultery and divorce, the abolition of child marriage, the alleviation of the social miseries of widowhood, mitigating the enforced seclusion of women, improvement of domestic life and family training, diminishing infanticide, etc.

The humanitarian value of missions in the world at large, in suppressing slavery and the slave trade, cannibalism, human sacrifices, cruel ordeals, and in organizing practical charities, famine relief, hospitals and dispensaries, leper asylums and colonies, promoting cleanliness and health, and mitigating war, are clearly shown in text and with picture. We close this volume with the conviction that no more important work on the practical side of missions has yet been written, nor one more likely to appeal to all lovers of humanity, without regard to their creeds or subjective prepossessions. Yet Dr. Dennis' gospel is the old and the tried. It has been his happy part to show its world-wide sociological value. A third volume will complete his great and noble task.

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